

MINUTES FOR OCTOBER MEETING

INDIANA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTING

PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION MEETING

**OCTOBER 21, 2013 6PM
HAUBSTADT FIRE TERRITORY
400 s 6th St
HAUBSTADT IN 47639
812-459-2325**

A Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm

At this time, James Greeson honored Jack Kerney for his years of service on the Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education. Jack was presented with the challenge coin from the Dept of Homeland security and a coin from the Fire Marshal Office.

Jack spoke about coming to this point of his career, he has been in the fire service for over 50 years, and you try to hold onto something and being removed from this board hit me hard. I really enjoyed it, felt I was making a difference and I am going to miss it.

John Buckman honored Jeff Hayes, chairman, served on a variety of fire depts., Jeff was involved in investigations, during his time on the board, we had great debates on a variety of issues, and Jeff was always willing to listen.

Marshal Greeson, spoke about the years working with Jeff, and awarded him the Challenge coin from the Dept of Homeland Security and the Marshal Office.

Greg Wyant call meeting to order at 6:05 pm and called for nominations for Board officers

James Greeson made a motion to nominate Greg Wyant as Board Chair, Burke Jones seconded. John Buckman nominated Burke Jones as Vice Chair and John Buckman made a motion for Rob Lund as Board Secretary. Greg Wyant made a

motion to accept the nominees for the positions nominated for. James Greeson seconded. Motion passed. Nominee's accepted the positions.

B. Roll call

Present

Greg Wyant, Chair

Burke Jones, Vice Chair (6:15pm)

Rob Lund, Secretary

James Greeson

John Smith

Arvin Copeland, John Buckman sitting in

Absent

Tom Hanify

C. Approval of August minutes as submitted.

Burke Jones made a motion to approve. John Smith seconded. Motion passed.

D. Variance requests:

1. Request from August meeting, Justin Heim requested a variance for FO IV. He has submitted transcripts from North central University in AZ.

The Board requested a letter from the Fire Chief of the Dept that he assists when he is in town.

At this time, we have not received the requested information. Staff is asking the Board to deny the request.

James Greeson made a motion to deny the request due to no further information received. John Smith seconded. Motion passed.

2. The following students requested a variance in order to take the written/practical exam for Firefighter I at the age of 17 years old.

Devon Adams, Joseph Bush, Eric Devoe; Samuel Dew; Zachary Dick; Tanner Folkener; Devin Holland; Erica Monroe; Austin Murphy; Austin Shepherd; Omar Whigum; Mikal Williams.

The students are part of the Muncie Area Career Center.

Staff recommends approval pending certification of Hazmat Operations.

James Greeson made a motion to approve with the condition that all practical skills are completed and that certification will not be issued until the prerequisite has been met. Rob Lund seconded. Motion passed.

James Greeson asks if we can get statistics showing how many of these 17 year olds go on to the fire service or college, or military. This is a lot of work to allow these kids to test and get certification and it would be nice to see if the results are worth the work the effort. Jeff Hayes explained that as stated at the last meeting, 70% of that class went on to become volunteer firefighters. John Buckman asks for something in writing on this issue.

John Smith was introduced to the Board and attendees. He is a member of the Huntingburg FD, District chairman of the IVFA

Rob Lund was introduced; he is a career firefighter of the Riley FD, Division Chief of training, started his career at the age of 18 at Newport Chemical Depot Fire Dept. In Newport, Indiana.

3. Raymond Collins requested variances for Instructor I, II, and III. He has 20 years of service with the Elkhart City FD, and he is an Indiana licensed teacher.

Staff recommends approval of Instructor I only. Teacher's license does not meet the requirements of Instructor III.

John Buckman made a motion to approve instructor I providing he passes the Instructor reciprocity test. John Smith seconded. Motion passed.

4. Dean Teagardin requested a variance for Fire Officer II. He holds an Associate Degree in Applied Science from Purdue University in 1982. Staff recommends denial based on lack of relevant education. Burk Jones made a motion to deny based on staff recommendation. James Greeson seconded. Motion passed. Dean was on the webinar and after a discussion with him Burk Jones rescinded his motion to deny. James Greeson seconded. Motion was rescinded. John Buckman made a

motion to table pending documentation of continued education. John Smith seconded. Motion passed.

5. Tracy Wood requested a variance for Fire officer II. The training records being used for validation are from courses that he has completed back in the late 1980's and early 1990's. He is a Fire Officer I, his instructor II/III expired in 2011, he does not have Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics, and he holds a First Class instructor.
Staff recommends denial based on lack of relevant education and training.

John Smith made a motion to deny. James Greeson seconded. Motion passed.

6. Matt Dutton from Lafayette training Center FD requested a variance to be allowed to take the written exam at the age of 17 years old for the following tests:

Firefighter ½

Hazmat awareness/operations

Technical rescue awareness

Matt was part of the class that requested a variance at the August meeting. His name was left off of the request.

Staff recommends approval providing they are completed in order of prerequisites.

Burke Jones made a motion to approve. Rob Lund seconded. Motion passed.

7. Paul Miller requested a variance for Fire Officer II. Paul has a Bachelor Degree in education from Purdue, holds a current Instructor II/III, and had an Indiana teacher's license. He has been in the fire service since 1995, and has been the Battalion Executive Officer, Battalion training officer and is a member of the hazmat team. He has advanced his education with continued classes in supervision, law enforcement, fire service management, building construction and fire tactics.
Staff has no recommendation based on the age of the training submitted. James Greeson made a motion to approve based on documentation submitted and the amount of training explained by Paul on the webinar. John Buckman seconded. Motion passed.

8. Jerry Martin requested variance for Fire Officer II and Fire Officer III. He holds a Fire Officer I, was an instructor II/III and has taken a course in Public Safety at Ivy Tech in 1997.
Staff recommends denial based on lack of education and continued education.
Burke Jones made a motion to deny. Rob Lund seconded. Motion passed.
9. John Medvescek requested a variance for Fire Officer II. John has completed multiple classes through Ivy Tech, FEMA, NFA, and other facilities with the Public Safety education. He has included transcripts from Ivy Tech. He has been on the job since 1979 at IFD. He acts as Battalion Chief and Safety Officer as needed through IFD.
Staff has no recommendation. The age of the training and lack of continued education prohibits staff from making a recommendation.
Marshal Greeson spoke on behalf of Mr. Medvescek. He knows this individual, and knows that amount of training that Mr. Medvescek has done. He is one of the best leaders in the fire service. There is no one more qualified in experience and training than this individual.
James Greeson made a motion to approve based on training performed.
Burke Jones seconded. Motion passed. John Smith opposed.
10. Paul Miller, Southmont High School, requested variances for 17 year olds to test for Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Hazardous Material Awareness, Hazardous Material Operations and Technical Rescue Awareness. Jakab Ison, Dillon Rapp, Abigail Wolf, Austin Abbott, Mary Greer, and Josh Russell are the 17 year olds that will be taking the written/practical testing.
Staff recommends approval providing they test in prerequisite order.
John Buckman made a motion to approve. Rob Lund seconded. Motion passed. John Smith opposed.
11. John Linn requested a variance for Fire Officer II. He has met the prerequisites required and included college transcripts from Ivy Tech In which he was granted Associates in Applied Science in 1993. He has submitted records of multiple trainings he has attended through the years, and he requests that work experience be considered with all other documentation.

Staff has no recommendation. The age of the training and lack of continued education prohibits staff from making a recommendation. John Buckman stated he has talked with this individual and feels that after the discussion he is confident that the requirements have been met. John Buckman made a motion to approve. John Smith seconded. Motion passed. James Greeson opposed.

12. Jason Weisenauer requested a variance for Instructor I. He states that he submitted his hours last year, and the certification was never updated. He has completed his hours on a timely basis; forms were never received in house for them.
Staff has no record of electronically receiving his continued education. James Greeson made a motion to table pending further documentation on continued education. John Buckman seconded. Motion passed.
13. John Snethen requested a variance for Fire Officer III. John passed the written/practical exam. He thought he met the prerequisite because the rules do not specify that you must have been an instructor II/III. Board rule states compliance with the NFPA 1021 standard which requires Instructor II. It is also stated in the prerequisite check sheet available on line.
Individual requested to pull his request and resubmit at the December meeting.
14. Scott Olofson requested a variance for Fire Officer II. He holds a Fire Officer I, he is a current Instructor II/III, and he has an Associate's Degree of Applied Science in Public Safety, multiple certifications from classes that he has attended through 2013.
Staff recommends approval based on his Fire Science Degree and continued education.
James Greeson made a motion to approve. John Buckman seconded. Motion passed.
15. Kevan Crawley requested a variance for Fire Officer II, III, and IV. He holds a Fire Officer I, and a current Instructor II/III. He is currently a captain with IFD, has 26 years experience as a Firefighter, and has 21 years as an officer in the military, graduate of Purdue with a major in law and society and a minor in psychology.

Staff has no recommendation. The age of the training and lack of continued education prohibits staff from making a recommendation. Greg Wyant made a motion to table pending more information on budgeting or budget writing. Also, clarification on the military document submitted. John Buckman seconded. Motion passed.

16. Patrick Harper is requesting a variance for Fire Officer III and IV. He requested the variance in January and was denied. He has since completed his education at Ivy Tech and holds a degree in Fire Science. Patrick would like the Board to reconsider his request with the new qualifications.

Staff has no recommendation. Transcripts are unclear as to standard requirements being met.

Letter from Candace Ashby on this request:

Dear Sirs/Ma'am:

This letter is in support of Lt. Patrick Harper's variance request for Fire Officer III & IV. Lt. Harper previously requested Fire Officer III & IV early this year along with another firefighter from Indianapolis Fire Dept. As a board member (then) I made a motion to deny the requests of both firefighters as a couple of board members were developing a new variance request form at the time. The thought at the time was it was a perfect opportunity for them to use the new form to reapply for the certifications. The form did not get completed in a timely fashion and the board granted the second firefighter his Fire Officer III & IV certifications at a later board meeting after an appeal to the administrative law judge. Lt. Harper's degree is related to the fire service and should be recognized. Additionally, he is actively engaged in teaching leadership courses throughout Indiana. Given the past practices of the board in granting these certifications along with the time frame in which Lt. Harper applied for a variance, he should have been granted his variance request. I take full responsibility for denying Lt. Harper's request and he was not treated fairly as many others since his request were granted variances with much less qualifications than Lt. Harper. I have requested for him to resubmit his request. Please see fit in granting Lt. Harper his previous request for Fire Officer III & IV. Please contact me if you have any questions and I will try to be available for questions on the webinar.

Respectfully,

Candace Ashby

John Buckman made a motion to approve. James Greeson seconded. Motion passed.

17. Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education, I would respectfully submit the following variance request for 17 year olds to take the following exams upon their completion of the course requirements: Hazardous Materials Awareness, Hazardous Materials Operations, Mandatory Firefighter, Firefighter I and Firefighter 2, Technical Rescue Awareness. These students will only be allowed to challenge the tests if they successfully pass all the skills and requirements. Some of the individuals on this list may not successfully complete the course and therefore will not have their name submitted when it comes time to request the test. I am presenting these names early so there will be no last minute procrastination or timing issues.

Matt Alfred, Braxton Arnett, Marquis Barrett, Jordin Bradley, Kevin Cabrera, Austin Davey, Andrew Eakes, Thomas Fonte, Shafontez Harty, Mitchell Isaacs, Spencer Knepp, Anderson Nellis, Phillip Thomas, Skylee Porten, Logan Radar, Jared Ruhnnow, Anthony Smith, Jerry Wilson, Matt Behrman, Jared Bohl, Jake Chalfin, Carlton Chaney, Justin Dearing, Wyatt Gehlbach, Jordan Grace, Jordan Huff, Nicholas Johnson, Neil Jones, Deshaun Lane, Ryan Lewis, Jacob Massie

Thank you for hearing our request and hope you will pass our variance. I know you passed the same type of variance at the last meeting for the 17 year old students from Lafayette High School, Lafayette, Indiana, and hope you will do the same for my students.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Jeffrey Hayes

Staff recommends approval providing they are completed in order of prerequisites.

Burke Jones made a motion to approve. Rob Lund seconded. Motion passed.

18. Jeff Beam is asking for a variance for the Fire Officer II state test. He is asking for permission to use the Jones and Bartlett test. This is part 2 of the on line program from Jones and Bartlett. The Board approved part 1, Fire Officer 1 and Jeff is asking to be able to complete the program.
- Staff recommends approval. The original pilot program was approximately 1 year ago. This is the second half of that program.

John Buckman made a motion to approve. Staff will create a special 50 question test validated to the Jones and Bartlett test for this request. James Greeson seconded Motion passed.

E. Request for Administrative Appeal

No report at this time

F. State Fire Marshal report: James Greeson

October 6th is National Fire prevention week. Thanks everyone that participated in this event. New Assistant state Fire Marshal, Robert Johnson out of Monroe County, he was the previous Fire Chief of VanBuren Twp, he also a hazmat technician, worked at Eli Lilly, he is an EMT, started work in the office last week. IDHS has gone through a reorganization, the Fire Marshal staff is welcoming back to members, the Hazmat staff is back, training and certification, EMS have all moved back under the Fire Marshal Office. Mike Garvey is the EMS director for the state. Ems reporting, updated the software, someone will be coming around to help you install if you are using Firehouse .net. We report to the National EMS network. Last week we held an Indiana Fire Summit and we invited approximately 80 people from around the state, fire background, emergency management background, ems background, about 50 attended, the summit was to discuss the creation of the state fire academy. The Governor has put money in the budget this year, over \$300,000 to study this subject. Part of the money was for the summit. Kentucky, Ohio and Illinois come in to talk to us. They all have Fire Academy's. Gary Breeze came in to facilitate the meeting. We looked at potential, lot of debates at this meeting. There will be a document out in the next week giving a brief overview. In January we will get this group back together and have another 1 day and go over the white paper. Regional training will continue; consistency of training, standardization of curriculum and quality assurance. These are the 3 things that everyone agrees on. No discussion was on when, where, or how this will be built. There is no funding for this at this time and it will not be asked for in this year's legation. There are going to be changes to the Board rules to accommodate the academy.

John Buckman stated that some of the things that were asked for, we can start on; we do not have to wait. Quality control is already being worked on.

Director Hill has assigned the Fire Marshal to oversee the development of the academy.

G. Director of Training:

No report at this time.

H State Fire Training report: John Buckman

1. 655 IAC rule rewrite

Mara Snyder stated that because of the Governors moratorium on rule changes, the rewrite at this time needs to be suspended. If the board wants to go ahead and make changes now, we might not get another bite of this apple in order to change for the academy.

The NFPA standards can be update using the emergency rule change that the Board can now do, and we should try this. We would be looking at 6-8 months for the NFPA changes.

2. Modular testing

We are asking to go live on these. The pilots worked well, but we do ask that this program be restricted to the extent that you have to use it the way it was designed for. You cannot get module B without taking module A. You cannot take module C and not the first 2. The stand alone would be module D, which is Firefighter 2. That was designed as a standalone module.

Burke Jones made a motion to approve. John Smith seconded. Motion passed.

3. HMA/HMO/HMT in one test

This test will combine the three tests into one, and received all three certifications. This test could be 175 questions, but you get all three certifications at the end of it. This is the combined number of questions that you would take if you took the tests separately. The actual number of questions on this test will be determined at a later date.

John Smith made a motion to approve. Rob Lund seconded. Motion passed.

Question: will the single tests still be available, yes.

John smith made a motion to approve the combination of these 3 tests for certification purposes. Rob Lund seconded. Motion passed.

4. Fire Officer III skills for approval

There are no real changes on these. We have added direction and clarification to these skills.

5. Fire Officer 2 pilot for Zionsville FD
This was discussed with variance #18.

I. Old Business:

1. 17 year old testing and liability issues

a) Jeff Hayes

2. Voluntary recertification for Career firefighters.

This has been discussed and what the Marshal's Office will do is issue a Certificate of Completion to any Fire Dept. that has all the members recertify for training. This is not from the Board; it is issued through the Fire Marshal's Office. The group is still working on this to determine what training, how we will track this training. How many hours count toward this certificate of Completion? Mara Snyder voiced concern about the work certification. This would not be a certification. Call it something else.

3. Book committee status

We have just been informed that the 7th edition of the IFSTA Fire Instructor books is no longer available. We are forced to change the books to the 8th edition. This is not the state; this is the publisher that has caused this upgrade this time. The 8th edition book is to the current standard. There are very few changes in the standards or the books.

We are doing a precourse planning template. This has helped many instructors to correct their program for teaching. We have very good results. There are no longer challenge courses the way they used to be. There has to be some kind of instruction. There are course scenarios where some skills are being completed. These have to be done prior to testing, so there has to be some type of instructional capability involved.

4. Criminal history and revoking certifications

There is nothing in the rules that allow the Board to take action against anyone with the record. The rules state that they can take action, but there is no definition as to what type of action. In the past, this has been left up to the local authority to take care of.

J. New business

1. Jon Justin convicted of arson in 1985. He has had no other incidents since that time.

No action was taken at this time.

2. New Fire Officer variance request forms. Greg Wyant

A committee consisting of 2 board members and 2 other individuals created forms in order to clarify the requesting of Fire Officer Variances. These forms help the individuals and the Board to determine what needs to be submitted so the Board can make this determination. We have come up with a draft for the board to review. This is a guide packet for the board to use. Mara Snyder wants it clear that this is guidance only. If an individual wants to submit for a variance, they can still do so even if they have no documentation on these forms. Greg Wyant stated that this is guidance only. Greg Wyant stated that this is a living document and can always be adjusted. The individuals need to show equivalency to the JPR's and this will help the Board to determine if this has been accomplished.

There is a part of this form that requests a letter of recommendation from the fire Chief. Not everyone will have a Fire chief, or the Fire Chief does not want to give the letter of recommendation. The form will be revised to allow a letter of explanation if this letter is not attached. There is also a part that asks what type of degree you hold, but this does not restrict the request to only those that have a degree. You can still apply for a variance.

This will go back to the committee; corrections will be made and resubmitted to the Board for approval.

John Buckman made a motion to beta test the variance packet for Fire Officer I thru IV for 6 months and report back.

K. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm

Next meeting:

Dec 2, 2013 6pm
Pike Twp FD
4881W 71st St
Indpls IN 46268
317-647-5860